

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A device for use by a female user to self-deposit a solid object or a non-flowable medicament in her vagina, the device including
an elongate body which includes a gripping portion and an elongate straight barrel extending from the gripping portion, with a passage, configured to receive a solid object or medicament, extending through the gripping portion and through the barrel, the gripping portion being thick relative to the barrel in at least one transverse dimension;
the passage having an outlet at a free end of the barrel and a portion of the passage, located in the gripping portion, being curved in the longitudinal direction of the passage and a portion of the passage, located in the barrel, being linear; and
a flexible ejector or plunger which is slidably located in the passage and which thus extends through the gripping portion and through the barrel, the flexible ejector being able to follow the curvature of the passage so that it can be displaced by the user along the passage to push a solid object or medicament received in the passage out of the passage through the outlet thereof into the vagina of the user.
2. (previously presented) A device for use by a female user to self-deposit a solid object or medicament in her vagina, the device including
an elongate body which includes an elongate barrel which is roughly triangular in a transverse cross section with a passage, configured to receive a solid object or medicament, extending through the body, the passage having an outlet at a free end of the barrel, a portion of the passage spaced from the outlet being curved in the longitudinal direction of the passage; and
an ejector or plunger which can be displaced by the user along the passage to push a solid object or medicament received in the passage out of the passage through the outlet thereof into the vagina of the user.
3. (currently amended) A tampon insertion device which includes
an elongate body which includes a gripping portion and an elongate straight barrel extending from the gripping portion, with a passage, configured to receive a tampon,

extending through the gripping portion and through the barrel, the gripping portion being thick relative to the barrel in at least one transverse dimension, the passage having an outlet at a free end of the barrel and a portion of the passage, located in the gripping portion, being curved in the longitudinal direction of the passage and a portion of the passage, located in the barrel, being linear ;and

a flexible ejector or plunger which is slidably located in the passage and which thus extends through the gripping portion and through the barrel, the flexible ejector being able to follow the curvature of the passage so that it can be displaced along the passage to push a tampon received in the passage out of the passage through the outlet thereof.

4. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the barrel is roughly triangular in a transverse cross section.

5. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the passage has an inlet remote from its outlet and in which the curved portion of the passage renders a centrally disposed longitudinal axis of the barrel and a centrally disposed axis through the inlet of the passage at an obtuse angle of between 170° and 135° relative to each other.

6. (original) A device as claimed in claim 5, in which the obtuse angle between the axes is between 160° and 140° .

7. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which an outlet end portion of the barrel has the general shape, or incorporates at least some of the design features of a glans penis.

8. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the passage includes a medicament or object chamber for receiving the solid medicament or object.

9. (original) A device as claimed in claim 8, in which the chamber is spaced from the outlet of the passage, allowing a part of the barrel, above the outlet, and a part of the barrel, below the outlet, to be displaced or forced towards each other when the barrel is being inserted into a vagina, thus at least partially closing off the outlet whilst the barrel is being inserted into the vagina and preventing the object or medicament from scraping against or injuring body tissue material.

10. (original) A device as claimed in claim 3, in which the barrel includes a longitudinally extending slit through which a string of a tampon received in the passage can protrude.

11. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which at least the barrel is of a material having a Shore A hardness between 40 and 80.

12. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the body and the ejector or plunger are manufactured from paper or paper pulp, rendering the device disposable.

13. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the body defines gripping surfaces such that the body can be gripped between a thumb, an index finger and a middle finger of one hand of a user, the gripping surfaces being arranged such that when the body is being held between the three fingers, with the middle finger and the index finger touching the body in respective areas and the body being orientated such that said areas are in the same horizontal plane, the barrel projects upwardly away from said horizontal plane at an angle of between 45° and 10°.

14. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the body is a monolithic, integrally moulded body.

15. (original) A device as claimed in claim 3, in which a part of the barrel, above the outlet, and a part of the barrel, below the outlet, are displaceable towards each other,

allowing the parts to be displaced or forced towards each other when the barrel is being inserted into a vagina, thus at least partially closing off the outlet whilst the barrel is being inserted into the vagina and preventing the tampon from scraping against or injuring body tissue material.

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18. (new) The device as claimed in claim 1, in which the gripping portion forms a stop for insertion of the device.

19. (new) The device as claimed in claim 1, in which the gripping portion is bulbous.

20. (new) The device as claimed in claim 1, in which the barrel is configured to receive a tampon.

21. (new) A device for use by a female user to self-deposit a solid object or a non-flowable medicament in her vagina, the device including:

 a body including a gripping portion and an elongate straight barrel extending from the gripping portion, *the gripping portion being configured to be gripped by the user with one hand;*

 a passage, configured to receive a solid object or medicament, extending through the body, the passage having an outlet at a free end of the body;

 a first portion of the passage, located in the gripping portion, being curved in the longitudinal direction of the passage,

 a second portion of the passage, located in the barrel, being linear; and

 a flexible rod slidably located in the passage and extending through the gripping portion and through the barrel,

a thumb grip attached to the flexible rod and located opposite the free end of the body such that pushing on the thumb grip by the user's thumb displaces the rod to push a solid object or medicament received in the passage out of the passage through the outlet thereof into the vagina of the user.

22. (new) A device for use by a female user to self-deposit a solid object or a non-flowable medicament in her vagina, the device including:

- a body which includes a *bulbous* gripping portion and an elongate straight barrel extending from the gripping portion;

- a passage, configured to receive a solid object or medicament, extending through the body, the passage having an outlet at a free end of the barrel;

- a first portion of the passage, located in the gripping portion, being curved in the longitudinal direction of the passage,

- a second portion of the passage, located in the barrel, being linear; and

- a flexible ejector or plunger which is slidably located in the passage and which thus extends through the gripping portion and through the barrel, the flexible ejector being able to follow the curvature of the passage so that it can be displaced by the user along the passage to push a solid object or medicament received in the passage out of the passage through the outlet thereof into the vagina of the user.